

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08

L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 OMB-01 SWF-02 FEA-02 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-14 XMB-07

DRC-01 /252 W

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R 261400Z JUN 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6692

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 4057

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TNC GROUP ON IMPROVING TRADE FRAMEWORK

REF: A. STATE 117406

B. GENEVA 3598

1. SINCE CONVERSATION WITH LONG REPORTED REFTEL B WE HAVE DISCUSSED PROPOSED GROUP REFTEL A WITH NUMBER OF OTHER DELEGATIONS. REACTIONS HAVE VARIED FROM GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO COMPLETELY NEUTRAL.

2. MANY OF THOSE WITH WHOM WE HAVE RAISED SUBJECT HAVE ASKED WHETHER THIS IS REVIVAL OF PROPOSAL FOR TNC STEERING GROUP OR SPECIAL Z GROUP. WE HAVE RESPONDED THAT WE ARE INTERESTED

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IN GETTING IDEAS FOR IMPROVING FRAMEWORK ON THE TABLE; PROPOSED

GROUP COULD BE EITHER SPECIAL Z GROUP WITH THIS SUBJECT AS FIRST ASSIGNMENT OR TOKYO PARA 9 GROUP DEVOTED TO THIS SUBJECT; WE THOUGHT U.S. COULD GO EITHER WAY, DEPENDING ON WHICH CONCEPT MORE READILY ACCEPTED. SOME OF THOSE WE HAVE ASKED HAVE INDICATED SOME CONTINUING SUSPICION RE GROUP WITH BROAD SCOPE.

3. WHEN QUESTION FOCUSSED ON STARTING WORK ON FRAMEWORK IN FALL, REACTIONS HAVE BEEN FOR MOST PART INTERESTED BUT NEUTRAL AND NON-COMMITTAL (EC, JAPAN, SEDEN, FINLAND, SWITZERLAND, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND). THERE HAS BEEN SOME RECEPTIVITY TO ARGUMENT WE HAVE USED THAT NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT HAS BECOME MORE EVIDENT THAN IT WAS A YEAR AGO AND ALMOST NO CITING OF TIME ELEMENT IMPLICIT IN PARA 9 OF TOKYO DECLARATION (WHICH SUGGESTS SUBJECT TO BE DISCUSSED LATER IN NEGOTIATIONS) BUT THERE HAS NOT BEEN VERY MUCH SPECIFICALLY FAVORABLE REACTION EVEN ON PERSONAL BASIS. EXCEPTIONS WERE CANADA; PETER CLARK THOUGHT PERSONALLY CANADA WOULD SUPPORT; FRG: ELSON RESPONDED THAT RECENT EVENTS IN TRADE FIELD MAKE SUCH INITIATIVE USEFUL; MEXICO: GARRIDO THOUGHTTT MEXICO WOULD BE ENTHUSIASTIC; AND MALAYSIA: LAI THOUGHT MALAYSIA WOULD FAVOR CREATION OF GROUP, BUT, HE ADDED, U.S. MAY FIND MALAYSIAN IDEAS FOR IMPROVING SYSTEM SOMEWHAT "DRASTIC". WE THINK SOME OF OUR COLLEAGUES DOUBTLESS AWAIT REACTIONS FROM CAPITALS.

4. IN PRESENTING HIS IDEAS FOR TNC PROGRAM TO KEY DELS TODAY (REPORTED SEPTTEL) DIRECTOR GENERAL LONG SAID TNC NICHT DECIDE TO EXAMINE IN AUTUMN MANNER IN WHICH CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO IMPROVEMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR CONDUCT OF WORLD TRADE AND AT WHAT STAGE TO TAKE UP THIS SUBJECT. (HE WILL INCLUDE SIMILAR POINT IN PAPER TO BE CIRCULATED.) HE ALSO EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW QUESTION COULD ONLY BE EXAMINED IN LIGHT OF RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE REMARKED IN RESPONSE THAT DECISIONS MIGHT HAVE TO AWAIT PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS BUT WE THOUGHT START MIGHT BE MADE THIS FALL IN SENSE OF INVITING PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS TO PUT THEIR IDEAS ON THE TABLE AND BEGIN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. NO OTHER DEL COMMENTED.

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5. COMMENT: IN OVERALL WE FEEL RECEPTION HAS BEEN CERTAINLY NOT NEGATIVE AND PROPOSAL HAS REASONABLE CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE IN JULY. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF SUSPICIONS OF U.S. MOTIVES FOR Z GROUP, IT PROBABLY WOULD BE BETTER TO THINK OF PROPOSAL AS MORE LIMITED PARA 9 (FRAMEWORK) GROUP AND TO KEEP EFFORTS LOW KEY, EMPHASIZING CONCEPT OF PUTTING IDEAS ON TABLE. TIME CONCEPT IN PARA 9 OF TOKYO AND PROBABLE NEGATIVE REACTION ON BASIS OF REVIVED SUSPICIONS MILITATE AGAINST HARD SELL.

6. WE HAVE NOT EXPLORED QUESTION WITH LDCS GENERALLY.
OUR GUESS IS THEY WILL GO ALONG MUCH MORE READILY THAN
DCS, THOUGH THEIR REASONS (BROADLY, THAT THEY EXPECT
REVISION IN THEIR FAVOR) MIGHT GIVE US SOME PAUSE. ABRAMS

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